

# COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2017

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Monday, June 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler meeting room. CSEC members present were Brad Hubbard-Nelson (chair), Bill Lehr (clerk), Gilda Gussin, Annie Moore, and Janet Miller and Alan Whitney. Also present were Pamela Cady and Concord residents Doug Sharpe, Eric Reinhard, and Alice Kaufman; and interns Claudia Baptista and Clayton Hafer.

See Slides (attachment #1, includes Agenda as first slide).

### **1. Welcome visitors and meeting logistics**

- Meeting was convened at 7:02pm

### **2. Approval of minutes from recent meetings**

- Minutes for May 17 meeting as amended were approved by unanimous vote.

### **3. Next meetings and Announcements**

- Tuesday, July 18 at 7pm at Harvey Wheeler. Gilda Gussin may not be able to attend, depending on when she arrives from out of town trip.
- Thursday, August 7 or Friday, August 8 at 7pm at Harvey Wheeler. Will poll to determine date. Bill Lehr will be unable to attend in person.
- Welcomed to first meeting CSEC's two summer interns: Claudia Baptista, senior UMass in civil engineering (Malden, MA); Clayton Hafer (Bedford MA), junior Holy Cross, major economics and environmental studies. Both have interests in clean tech and environmental issues. Claudia will be working with Brad on Cooler Concord programs and Clayton will be working with Jill Appel on plans to upgrade Beede Center with solar and a Lawn Mower swap event targeted for fall.

### **4. Chair report, announcements:**

- Bruce Blumberg is resigning from CSEC to focus on carbon taxes. Chris Whelan is scheduling meetings with other Town green card candidates to fill out CSEC membership.
- Brad and Janet attended Long Range Planning meeting a few weeks ago and noted that energy issues attracted only moderate interest. There was some discussion around housing stock and economic diversity. Since 1916, there has been trend in Concord toward tearing down smaller houses and replacing with larger that are likely more energy efficient per square foot, but unclear what net effect on energy usage is (e.g., introduction of AC, more appliances, etc.). Might be useful for CSEC to prepare

comparison report for consideration by Town committees. Since Energy Task Force does not exist yet, not surprising that Long Range Planning committee has not taken on sustainability issues yet.

- Chair Breakfast on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30am. Bill will go with Alan as back-up.
- Bike sale on June 21<sup>st</sup> is taking place. DPW sale.

## **5. Cooler Concord Fair Follow-up**

### **5.1. Status Update and Meetings**

- Lots of work on budget, rebate forms and process for accounting and processing rebates is being worked out. Expectation is CMLP will handle rebate process with expectation that these will be handled as credits to customer electric bills. Pamela will need to check with David Wood to make sure CMLP can handle accounting. Current plan is that rebates less than \$500 will be credited to consumer electric bills; and rebates greater than \$500 will be sent to consumers as checks from Town House.
- Town manager has agreed to fund at least \$50k for some of the rebates from Town's sustainability fund. CMLP will fund another \$32k rebates for Energy Star, LED makeovers, and hot-water heaters (and an additional \$27,000 for air source heat pumps and \$40,000 for solar PV rebates). Original request from CSEC was for \$81k for rebates plus additional funds for advertising and special projects. Discussion still in process with Kate Hodges.
- Draft rebate forms exist and should be PDF forms. Brad will send the draft forms.

### **5.2. Communications – newsletter**

- Julie Kleyn has prepared a sample MailChimp newsletter and is drafting copy. Draft is friendly and informative, but a little too long. Put more text on the website. Length should be 2 pages or so. More images and links to more context on website. Call to action should be simple and not require folks to read a paragraph. Have more "read more" at the website...
- Alan and Annie will help with the newsletter. Meet next Monday.
- How does this relate to ConcordCAN newsletter? They are more about activists and about climate change, whereas CSEC looks more about energy.
- Release of newsletter should coincide with launch of website.

### **5.3. Web site**

- Current target date is July 1.
- Expectation is website will launch with some "Work in process" pages.
- Doug and Brad will discuss how to integrate newsletter and/or blog capability for more live content with the website.
- All should log on and check for interest and comment on website. [www.coolerconcord.org](http://www.coolerconcord.org).
- Should brand as Town of Concord since Cooler Concord is funded Town project. Will consider how best to incorporate Town branding on website.

## **6. CMLP Update – Green Communities grant projects**

- Pam provided update. These are all lighting plans. 4 projects: (1) CMLP LED retrofit is almost complete; (2) WWTP Lighting upgrade nearly done; (3) Libraries will start soon; and (4) Schools are still in process since there remains a funding gap. Hopefully the school projects can be completed by early February 2018 so Town can file for Green Communities grant in March. Current plan is to apply for grant for upgrading heating system at Ripley building.

## **7. Energy Task Force Progress Report**

- Alice Kaufman has drafted description of "sustainability" director job. Role will be to look across all Town committees/actions to ensure consideration of energy. And position will be to focus on behavior change, budget consistency, etc. It will be a senior town position. Draft is being reviewed by Town Manager but has not been circulated yet.

## **8. Municipal solar project possibility (Beede center)**

- Jill Appel has been working on several muni solar projects.
- Town needs to finalize a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) so private entity can take advantage of Federal and State credits.
- CMLP is not as enthusiastic about solar because load issues. Too much solar and if net load goes to zero that is a big problem. On one circuit they come close to where bright sun and excess load was 1MW and normal is 8-9MW. Load (kw consumed – kw generated) must be positive for both sub-circuits in Town.
- Solar thermal and solar PV for Beede Center. Expenses at Beede are too great so they want to reduce operating costs. Could do up to 350kw array on roof and parking lot canopy. Get someone to build and own, and we could do that. Clayton is working with Jill Appel on this project.

## **9. Quiet Communities mower swap event planning**

- Quiet Communities is based in Lincoln and want to eliminate gasoline powered lawn equipment. Use the Cooler Concord \$100 mower rebate as incentive to take part.
- Hope this will happen in September around middle of month.
- Jill and Clayton are working on this.
- Question about maybe postponing until spring 2018 when may be more likely folks in market for new mowers. Need big incentive if people will drop off mower to take it out of commission. Folks may want to sell on eBay.

## **10. Public comments**

- Eric pointed out that MassSave has redone their programs and, for example, they have \$25k loans. Go to MassSave website and rebates that apply to lots of things. <https://www.masssave.com/>.

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Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lehr, CSEC clerk

## **List of Attachments**

- 1) CSEC 170613 slides.pdf